

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #88 - POSTED 09/05/93

```
*****
*
*      *  * ***** *      * ***** *      ***** *      * ***** *
*      ** * *      *      * *      *      *      ** * *
*      * * * ***      * ** *      *** *      *      * * * ***
*      * ** *      * ** *      * *      *      * ** *
*      *  * ***** *  * ***** ***** *      * *****
*
*              *****      *      ***** ***** ***
*              *  * * * *      *      *      *
*              ***** ***** *      *      *      *
*              *  * *      * *      *      *      *
*              *      *      * ***** ***** ***
*
*****
```

The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newslines is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call (213) 462-0008, (805) 296-2407, (407) 259-4479, (708) 289-0423, (513) 275-9991, (718) 353-2801, (407) 965-1234 or (206) 368-3969. To provide stories and information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

Articles may be reproduced if printed in their entirety and credit is given to AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE as being the source.

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You  
NEWSLINE

```
*****
```

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY  
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU DJ0QN and

many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

[838]

#### Libya - 5A0RR

A DXer says that it almost cost him his life to put a rare country on the air. Romeo Stepaneko, 5A0RR has spoken out. He says that he and his assistant operator were arrested by Libyan police even though he had a license to operate from that country. That says Stepaneko is why the long awaited 5-Alpha operation suddenly went QRT.

According to information provided by Ed Kritzky, N2TX, The Five Alpha DX-pedition was terminated when Romeo and LZ2UU were accused by Libyan counter-intelligence and Egyptian police of planning to assassinate both President Huzni Mubarek and Libyan Leader Mormahr Quaddafy. To make matters worse, authorities also accused the two DXers of using ham radio as a cover for illegal drug trafficking by communicating with Turkish ships in the ports of Benghazi and Alexandria.

They were arrested, placed in the Libyan prison system and held incommunicado. Stepaneko says that their requests to speak with consular officials from Russia and Bulgaria were met with insults and abuse. Stepaneko calls the events that resulted in their release as nothing short of a miracle. He says that perhaps, in time, this part of story will be told.

But Stepaneko also says that this unpleasant experience, the details of which he cannot go in to this time, has caused his health to deteriorate. He is currently under doctor's care. He notes that copies of the 5A0RR logs are in Bulgaria and that QSL's are now being mailed. If his medical condition permits, he hopes to travel to the United States to present the documentation for the Libyan operation to the American Radio Relay League. He says that he also has in his possession the additional documentation for the P5 North Korean DXpedition that had been requested by the League.

Stepaneko also has some harsh words for his critics. He says that the unwarranted and undeserved criticisms, along with false charges, leveled in his direction from the amateur radio community of why the operation went off the air have disturbed him a great deal. He says that he was disappointed to see how few hams supported him or rallied to his defense when the false claims surfaced. Stepaneko adds that this experience has given great cause to consider discontinuing his efforts to put the very rarest countries on the air.

During five days of the 5 Alpha operation, Romeo and Danny say that they were able to contact over 11,000 stations before

the Libyans yanked them off the air.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FCC PREEMPTS STATES ON HAM GEAR IN CARS

The FCC says states cannot tell hams not to operate mobile or portable rigs because just because these radios have the potential of listening to frequencies outside of the amateur bands. The commission took this strong position on August 20th when it enacted an ARRL requested declaratory ruling. A ruling that preempts most state statutes and local ordinances affecting transceivers used by amateurs.

The laws attacked in FCC Private Radio Docket 91-36 were those that some states have passed to prohibit the possession of transceivers if they are capable of receiving on certain frequencies other than the ones used by hams. When it filed for the declaratory ruling the League told the FCC just about every transceiver on the market allows for incidental reception of frequencies adjacent to amateur bands. This, in order to ensure adequate performance within the amateur bands. The League also said that amateurs have special needs for out-of-band reception, a fact the marketplace long has recognized by offering transceivers to accommodate those needs.

The FCC agreed. It says that state and local laws that make possession of amateur transceivers in vehicles or elsewhere illegal merely because they can receive certain frequencies is defiantly preempted by federal law. The Commission says that such local and state laws are inconsistent with the federal laws that promote and facilitate the Amateur Radio service and are therefore illegal in themselves.

Several law enforcement lobby groups have been vocal in their opposition to any member of the general public having the ability to listen in on their transmissions, but none are expected to challenge this declaratory ruling which is limited only to FCC licensed radio amateurs.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NO THEORY PETITIONS DENIED

There will be no such thing as a No-Theory ham license. At least not as long as the FCC administers the amateur radio service.

The Commission made this very clear when it denied a petition by Scott Leyshon, WA2EQF who wanted to eliminate written examinations for amateur operator licenses. At the same time the Commission also denied a similar petition from Vincent Biancomano, WB2EZG, which, although it did not advocate a no written test license, did concur in all other respects with

Leyshon's proposal according to an FCC press release. Leyshon's petition, filed last April 19th, argued that current written examinations place a premium on FCC rules over technical content. Biancomano's petition, like Leyshon's, was characterized by the FCC as proposing that the Commission state a goal of the amateur service as being either a technical or a non-technical service.

The FCC says that it did not receive even one comment on the Leyshon petition. The commission noted that of the 170 questions that appear on examinations for amateur operator licenses, only forty-six concern rules and operating procedures. The remaining 124 cover contemporary technical matters. The Commission said it did not believe that present examinations place an unjustified premium on rules.

The FCC said that amateurs have, over the years, expressed the collective view that they agree with the current statement of the purposes of Amateur Radio as found in the commissions Part 97 service rules. In denying both petitions, the FCC said that it defiantly agrees.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### PRO HAM BILL IN CONGRESS

Once again the ARRL has been successful in getting a bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. This one would amend the communications act to facilitate utilization of volunteer resources on behalf of the Amateur Radio Service. Through HR 2623, the League is seeking protective legislation for many amateurs who are reluctant to participate in volunteer programs due to the possibility of personal liability. This includes the Amateur Auxiliary of the FCC's Field Operations Bureau, the volunteer examiner program, and the yet-to-be implemented volunteer club and military recreation station call sign administration program. The League says that volunteer monitors face the prospect of being accused of bias or other motives, and that volunteer examiners may fear being blamed by an examinee for failure to pass a test. The ARRL believes that legislation is needed to eliminate an obstacle to volunteer participation in these programs, as well as to prevent civil actions against good-faith volunteers.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FCC ISSUES NEW FINE SCHEDULE

The FCC has also issued a new schedule of suggested base amounts for monetary fines, with some reductions and some increases. Fines for breaking the Amateur Radio Part 97 rules have been more numerous since 1991. This is when the first FCC

policy statement on fines was issued. The statement outlined standards for assessing monetary forfeitures. Most have gone to people who used the ham bands without first getting a license. The remainder were issued to hams who violated the prohibitions on the transmission of indecent language, and for malicious and willful interference to other amateurs.

Up to now, the typical monetary forfeiture assessed for Part 97 violations under the 1991 guidelines has been in the area of \$2,000. The FCC said that the new schedule allows it more leeway in adjusting forfeiture amounts up or down depending on circumstances.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WA4D FINE UPHELD

Speaking about fines. Word that Michael Whatley, WA4D, has been ordered to pay an FCC Notice of Monetary Forfeiture for \$2,000. This after Commission denied a request from Whatley that it reconsider the Notice of Apparent Liability it issued to him in November of 1992.

Whatley had been accused of allegedly causing willful and malicious interference based on FCC monitoring on 7257 and 7258 kHz. According to the FCC, Whatley asked the FCC's Field Operations Bureau for copies of recordings of the transmissions in question and also requested a 30 day extension of time in which to respond to the NAL.

The bureau said it granted Whatley the time extension and provided him with both the tape and a transcript of it. Whatley then argued that other amateur operators were interfering with his transmissions, that the transcripts were incomplete and not reflecting all communications which were recorded on tape. He also argued that the parties to other communications on the band ignored his attempt to -- as he called it -- "compromise."

But on August 20th the FCC said it was not persuaded by Whatley's arguments. It said -- and we quote -- "Mr. Whatley's actions and communications indicate hostility towards the net members on 7255 kHz that were communicating, and do not support his claim that he intended to be conciliatory."

With that, the FCC ordered WA4D to pay a \$2,000 fine. Whatley was given thirty days to pay up. He also has the option of filing a further appeal before the commissioners. If that fails WA4D still has the expensive recourse of taking the matter into federal court.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### BABY MONITOR RECALL

The Food and Drug Administration announced a recall of all

cables on infant apnea respiration monitors that lack safety features. Infant apnea monitors are used to sound an alert when sleeping babies stop breathing. About 20 medical equipment firms make such cables. In 1989 the regulatory agency required all cables used on apnea monitors have safety features. Cables with safety features will accept only lead connections which cannot accidentally be plugged into a wall socket or electrical cord. An agency spokesman said that the FDA had recently learned that general medical monitor cables, like those used on cardiac and other monitors, do not have safety features and have been used on apnea monitors. The FDA issued the recall following death of an infant at an Oak Lawn, Illinois hospital who had been attached to an apnea monitor. The devices in question are not the home type units that monitor baby breathing aurally using a radio intercom system. These are the professional units that connect directly to an infant and which must be used under medical supervision only.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CHILE MICROSAT

The first Microsat from Chile, named Cesar 1, will be launched in early 1995. This, the announcement was made by the Radio Club Federation in Santiago, that will control the bird once it is in orbit.

The group says that the new bird is being designed by three local universities with the help of the Chilean Air Force. Once launched, Cesar 1 will orbit at an altitude of 900 km. The Federation hopes that Cesar 1 will assist in communication between the radio amateurs in Chile and the rest of the world.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NEWSLINE IN ON GENIE

For those of you who have been asking for a data version of Newsline, here we have news for you. The text of these newscasts, suitable for packet radio distribution is now available on the General Electric Consumer Information Service better known as GENIE. Board Leader Larry Ledlow, NA5E has created two new topics on the Radio and Electronics Bulletin Board for exclusive use by Newsline. They are Amateur Radio News from Newsline and Feedback to Newsline. Here is how they work.

Each week, Dale Cary, WD0AKO uploads the latest Newsline script in text form to the board. To download, sign onto GENIE, open your capture buffer, locate the Radio and Electronics BBS, log to Category 8 and download Topic 9 by typing READ 9 NEW followed by a carriage return. Newsline has given blanket permission for the reprint or retransmission of the posted

material as long as it is used unedited, and that proper source credit is given to Newsline.

Also available is "Feedback to Newsline" in Topic 10. By using it, you can upload a message to any member of the Newsline staff, and we will answer you directly as quickly as we can.

The new service on GEnie replaces our story listings previously offered on the Prodigy Information Service. Newsline will be leaving Prodigy on September 21st.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* \* \* Newsline Copyright 1993 all rights are reserved. \* \* \*

-----